

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-21 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Of these claims, Claims 1, 11 and 21 are independent claims; the remaining claims are dependent claims. All claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated Chaudhari et al. (hereinafter "Chaudhari"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office notes that Chaudhari has a common assignee and inventors with the present application and asserts the applied reference constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Applicants do not now address whether Chaudhari is in fact prior art, but reserve the right to do so. Applicants, however, respectfully submit the Office has not met its burden of showing anticipation. See 35 U.S.C. § 102 ("A person shall be entitled to a patent unless ..."). As such, Applicants respectfully submit this rejection should be withdrawn.

The "prior art made of record" has been reviewed. Applicants acknowledge that such prior art was not deemed by the Office to be sufficiently relevant as to have been applied against the claims of the instant application. To the extent that the Office may

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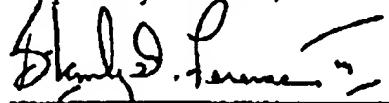
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apply such prior art against the claims in the future, Applicants will be fully prepared to respond thereto.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-21, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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